(b) what are the demands of the unions; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes ,Sir.

(b) The demands of the Unions are:

(i) No duality/multiplicity of DOT structure.

(ii) No fragmentation/privatisation of DOT services.

(iii) Creation of independent Telecom. Finance Corporation to avoid the need of Corporatisation.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Department to tackle the situation:

(i) The Staff Federations have been addressed on 22-11-93 indicating to them in detail the position on the items of demand contained in the strike notice. The unions have been told through this letter that there were absolutely no ground justifying the strike and they have been advised to withdraw the strike notice.

(ii) A meeting of the staff federations was held with the Chairman Telecom Commission on 26-11-93 and a committee has been set up to go into the three points which constitute the substance of the strike notice and give its report. The Federations have indicated that they are deferring the strike to 21-12-93.

(iii) Reference has also been made to the Regional Labour Commissioner, New Delhi under the ID Act for taking up concilition proceedings.

Every effort would be made to de-fuse the situtaion. Necessary steps have also been taken to tackle the situation as effectively as possible in case the strike materialies.

Irregularities in clearing of mail bags in Calcutta

424. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mail Bags are not fully cleared daily in the G.P.O., Calcutta and R.M.S. Offices in West Bengal Circle, causing irregular and uncertain postal deliveries; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure quick, regular postal deliveries in Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No Sir, this is not the general case. However some accumulation of mail in GPO/RMS Offices in West Bengal Circle takes place on occasions of bandh/strike/civil disturbances other causes beyond the control of the Department. The concerned posta authorities monitor transmission/delivery of mails on a day-to-day basis in order to ensure regular delivery of mails.

Corporation in MTNL Amongst Linemen and others

425. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the middle level employees of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have been agitating against the increasing corruption and indiscipline among the linemen and regular mazdoors.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to inquire into the situation created by the impasse among

the employees of MTNL and to remove the alledged corruption among the linemen and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Telecommunication Engineering Service Association (TESA) and Junior —Delhi Units had given notice to MTNL, New Delhi to launch an agitation against indiscipline by a certain section of staff of Janakpuri Telephone Exchange. There was no specific allegation of corruption against linemen|regular mazdoors.

(b) The details of demands contained in their notices dt. 13.10.93 and 19.10.93 are given as under—

(i) Immediate punishment to the miscreant elements of the staff who were recently suspended by the field Officers at Janakpuri.

(ii) Immediate cancellation of the transfer orders of the Officers who were declared unwanted.

(iii) Immediate withdrawal of fabricated cases against JTOs of Houz Khas exchange.

(iv) Immediate Implementation| settlement of the issues pertaining to the JTOs|AEs|DEs pending with the administration since long.

(c) The MTNL Administration discured the demands referred in (b) above with the representatives of TESAI|-TOA as a result of which the agitation was called off on 2-11-93.

MTNL, New Delhi has a Vigilance Cell working under the charge of a senior Officer. All complaints of corruptpion are duly enquired into and action as contemplated under the rules is taken in all such cases.

Non-Utilization of full capacity of Calcutta Telecom Factory

426. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleaed to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Factory, Calcutta is not being allowed to utilise its full capacity;

(b) whether the dearth of work order and job is ikely to lead to virtual closure of the factory; and

(c) if so, what are the facts and reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However it is true that the demand of conventional items which were previously being manufactured in Telecom Factory, Calcutta has come down due to changing Telecom Technology leading to surplus man-power.

A number of new items like Masts and Tpbular Towers, Power Plants MDFs for C-DOT exchange etc. have been allotted to Telecom Factory Calcutta and surplus man-power is being retrained and re-deployed.

Winding up of Telecom Department as part of new Telecom Policy

427. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated action to wind up the Department of Telecommunications as par of the new telecom policy.

(b) if so, whether by such efforts a large number of employees are likely to be dislocated;